REMARKS

The Office Action in the above-identified application has been carefully considered and this amendment has been presented to place this application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reexamination and reconsideration of this application are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-34 are in the present application. It is submitted that the claims, as originally presented, were patentably distinct over the prior art cited by the Examiner and are in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112. No changes have been made to the claims.
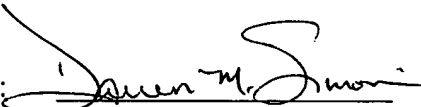
Claims 1-34 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-26 of the parent application, issued as U.S. Patent 6,337,879. As noted by the Examiner, a timely filed terminal disclaimer may be used to overcome the provisional double patenting rejections provided the conflicting patent is shown to be commonly owned with the present application. The conflicting patent is commonly owned with the present application. Accordingly, Applicants submit herewith a terminal disclaimer to overcome this rejection.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application as now presented is in condition for allowance. Early and favorable reconsideration of the application are respectfully requested.

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An extension-of-time fee is deemed to be required for the filing of this amendment. No additional fees are anticipated, but if such are required, the Examiner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficient fees or credit any overpayment associated with the above-identified application to Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

If any issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions, he/she is invited to call the undersigned at the telephone number provided below. The Examiner's consideration of this matter is gratefully acknowledged.

Respectfully submitted,
FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG LLP

By: _____
Darren M. Simon
Reg. No. 47,946
(212) 588-0800